

## Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 /073 W

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R 191811Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7251

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANAGUA 2386

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SP, NU

SUBJECT: SPANISH ROYALTY IN NICARAGUA

1. FOR THREE DAYS MANAGUA TALKED OF LITTLE ELSE BUT SPAIN'S VISITING DUKE AND DUCHESS OF CADIZ. ARRIVING JUNE 10, THE COUPLE MOVED IN THE BEST CIRCLES AND REPEATEDLY GOT IN GOOD PLUGS FOR SPANISH ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA. MEDALS WERE EXCHANGED: MRS. SOMOZA RECEIVED THE GRAND CROSS OF ISABEL THE CATHOLIC, THE DUKE AND DUCHESS GOT THE ORDER OF RUBEN DARIO, AND PRESIDENT SOMOZA WAS MADE AN HONORARY MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE OF HISPANIC CULTURE, WHICH THE DUKE HEADS. THE ROYAL VISIT WAS EXTREMELY WELL-ORCHESTRATED WITH BLUE RIBBON RECEPTIONS AND HIGHLY PUBLICIZED TOURS OF GRANADA AND SITES OF SPANISH PROJECTS IN MANAGUA. THE DUKE AND DUTCHESS WERE SEEN OFF AT THE AIRPORT JUNE 12 BY AN IMPRESSIVE COLLECTION OF CABINET LEVEL OFFICIALS WHERE THEY DEPARTED ABOARD A NICARAGUAN AIR FORCE PLANE FOR THE NEXT STOP ON THEIR LATIN AMERICAN TOUR, HONDURAS.

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2. COMMENT: UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF A CAPABLE AND AGGRESSIVE AMBASSADOR, JOSE GARCIA BANON, THE SPANISH HAVE PARLAYED ABOUT \$8 MILLION IN POST-EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE INTO A POSITION OF INFLUENCE WITH THE GON SECOND ONLY TO OUR OWN. GARCIA BANON'S IMPORTANT ROLE IN NEGOTIATING THE FSLN TERRORISTS' DEPARTURE AND HIS ACCOMPANYING THEM AS A HOSTAGE TO CUBA IN THE DECEMBER 1974 LOS ROBLES INCIDENT DRAMATIZED THIS INFLUENCE. THE SPANISH PROJECTS VISITED BY THE DUKE OF CADIZ ARE HIGHLY VISIBLE AND HAVE DONE MUCH TO GENERATE THE VERY FAVORABLE IMAGE CURRENTLY ENJOYED BY SPAIN IN THIS COUNTRY. THE DUKE'S CALL ON NICARAGUA WAS PRECEDED LAST YEAR BY A WELL PUBLICIZED VISIT FROM THE SPANISH LABOR MINISTER WHO INAUGURATED THEIR LARGEST PROJECT, THE NATIONAL TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE IN GRANADA WHERE A GROUP OF WELL TRAINED SPANISH TECHNICIANS SERVE AS INSTRUCTORS.

3. WHY ALL THIS ATTENTION TO NICARAGUA? GARCIA BANON HAS TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT IT IS BECAUSE OF SOMOZA'S INFLUENCE IN THE CENTRAL AMERICAN AREA. WITH LIMITED RESOURCES TO WIN FRIENDS, THE GOS HAS BEEN PUTTING THEM WHERE THEY THINK THEY CAN DO THEM THE MOST GOOD.  
SHELTON

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